

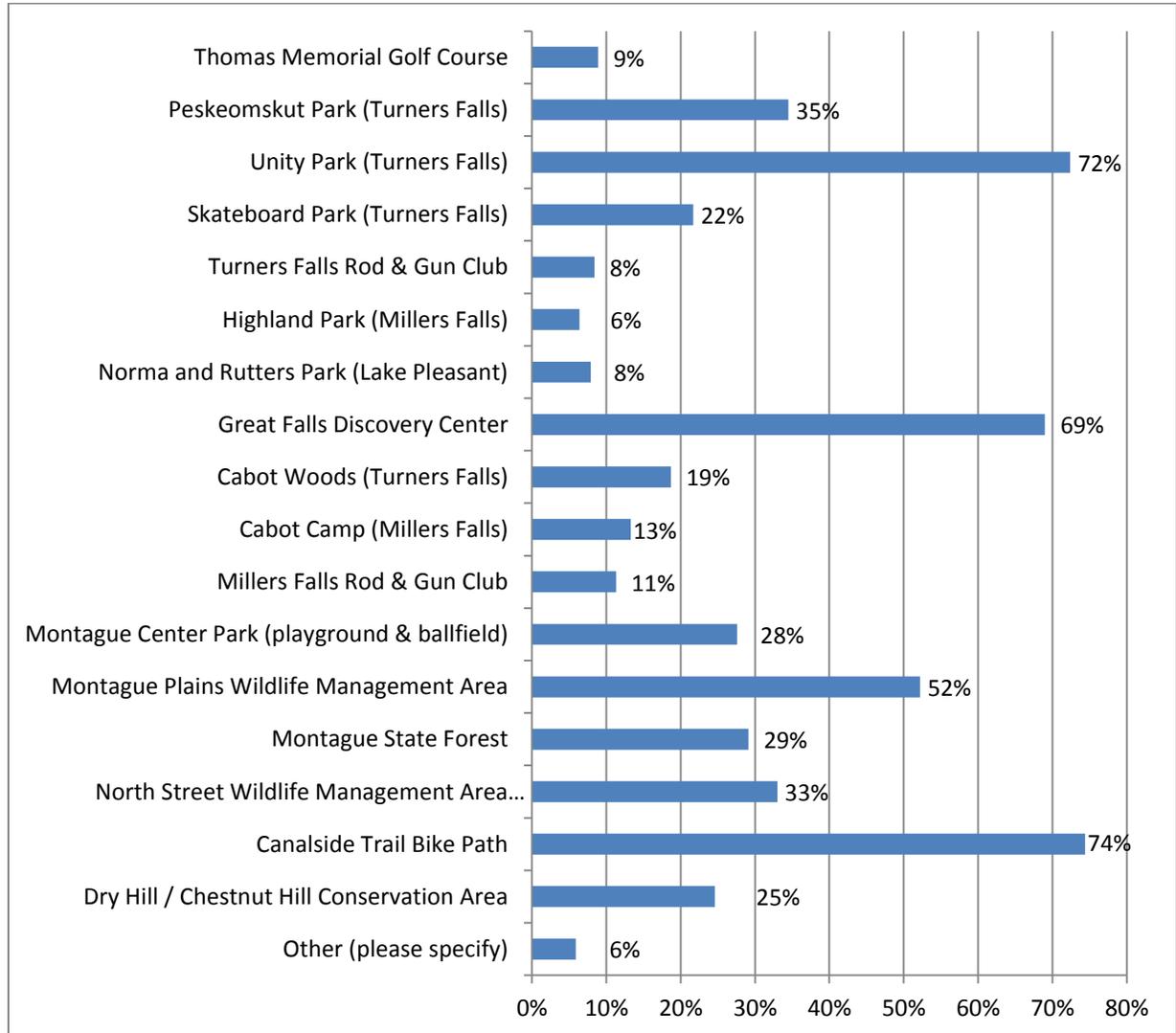
## 2016 MONTAGUE OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION SURVEY – DRAFT RESULTS

Total Responses: 206

### Question 1: Which of the following outdoor recreation areas do you or your family use?

Answered question: 203

Skipped question: 3



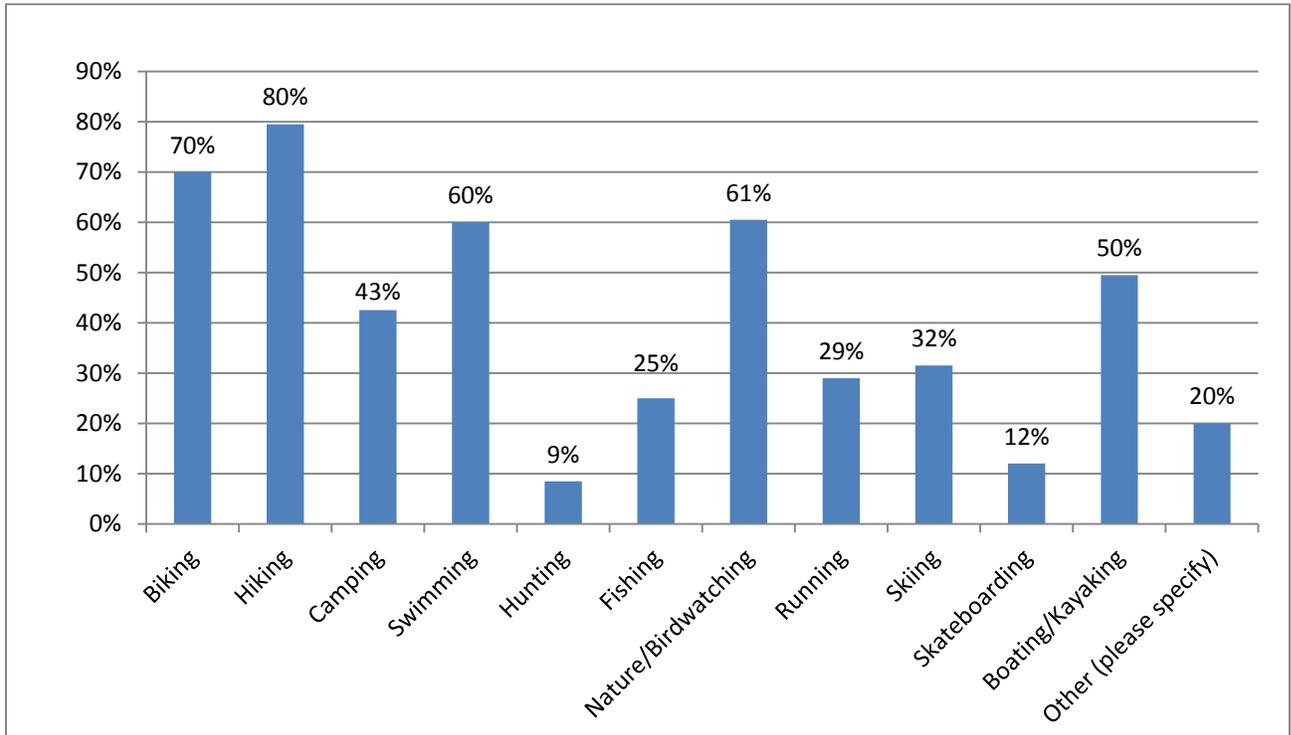
#### Other:

- Lake Pleasant
- I'd probably use more, but I didn't know about all of them!
- Montague Center Conservation Area
- Montague Center creek/ meadow
- would be great to keep the North St. Conservation area a field and mowed, it is closing in with trees and will be a forest soon! But even so, it's a great place.
- Mt. Grace, Northfield Mtn.
- Field of Dreams on Montague Road
- Montague WMA
- Barton Cove campground, Gill
- occasionally attend events at both the Rod and Gun Clubs as well as the Golf Course
- kayaking

**Question 2: Which of the following outdoor recreation activities do you or your family participate in (in or out of town)?**

Answered question: 200

Skipped question: 6



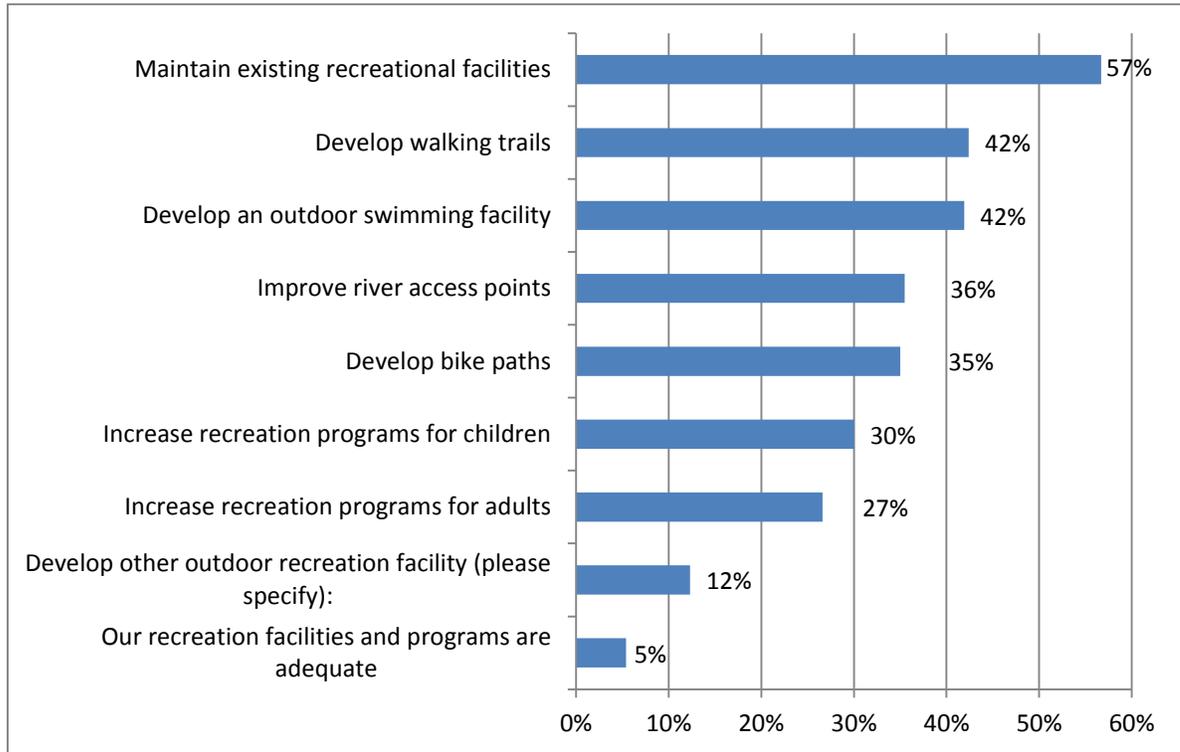
**Other:**

- walking (11)
- snowshoeing (4)
- YMCA
- golf
- soccer (4)
- Snowmobiling (2)
- playground
- dog walking (3)
- Foraging for wild foods
- dog park (2)
- rock climbing (2)
- tennis
- sports
- geocaching
- ice skating (2)
- motorcycles
- horseback riding (2)
- ATV, Off Road
- photography
- Music and dance
- DISC GOLF!!!

**Question 3: Which of the following should be the Town's HIGHEST recreation priorities? Choose up to THREE**

Answered question: 203

Skipped question: 3



**Develop other outdoor recreation facility:**

- trail markers for the wildlife management area
- save habitat for birding and walking
- A dog park!!!! :). Also an indoor action type of facilities
- Wooded walking trails with shade. Now that there is no shade in the plains.
- Have kayak/canoe rentals available, perhaps as a co-op/membership. Something available beyond 9-5, June 1-Sept1. (Also like the swimming facility idea.)
- Dog park
- outdoor ice skating rink and cross country ski trails
- Opportunities for X country skiing
- kayaking
- I wish the gun club could be sound proof. I listen to gun fire all weekend and that is not what I want to listen to in my yard. If they were playing loud music they would have to stop.
- pedestrian bridge on Greenfield Road
- Improve accessibility
- develop trail maps for montague plains
- Really need swimming areas. Green Pond etc in Millers, really, is that really a back-up water source? Would that ever be used for water. Its crazy that can't be converted over to public for swimming
- All of the above/ or Outdoor concert space, an outdoor skating rink
- Montague Center park area
- Improve montague center playground
- Stop the spending.
- Clear bike path in the winter!
- DEVELOP DISC GOLF COURSE!!!!
- More access to the river would be amazing for our family for swimming specifically.
- Ice skating rink!
- Fenced in dog park.
- Montague City is the only village without a public playground of some kind.

#### **Question 4: Are there any outdoor recreation activities that you enjoy outside of Town and want the Town to provide?**

Answered question: 79

Skipped question: 127

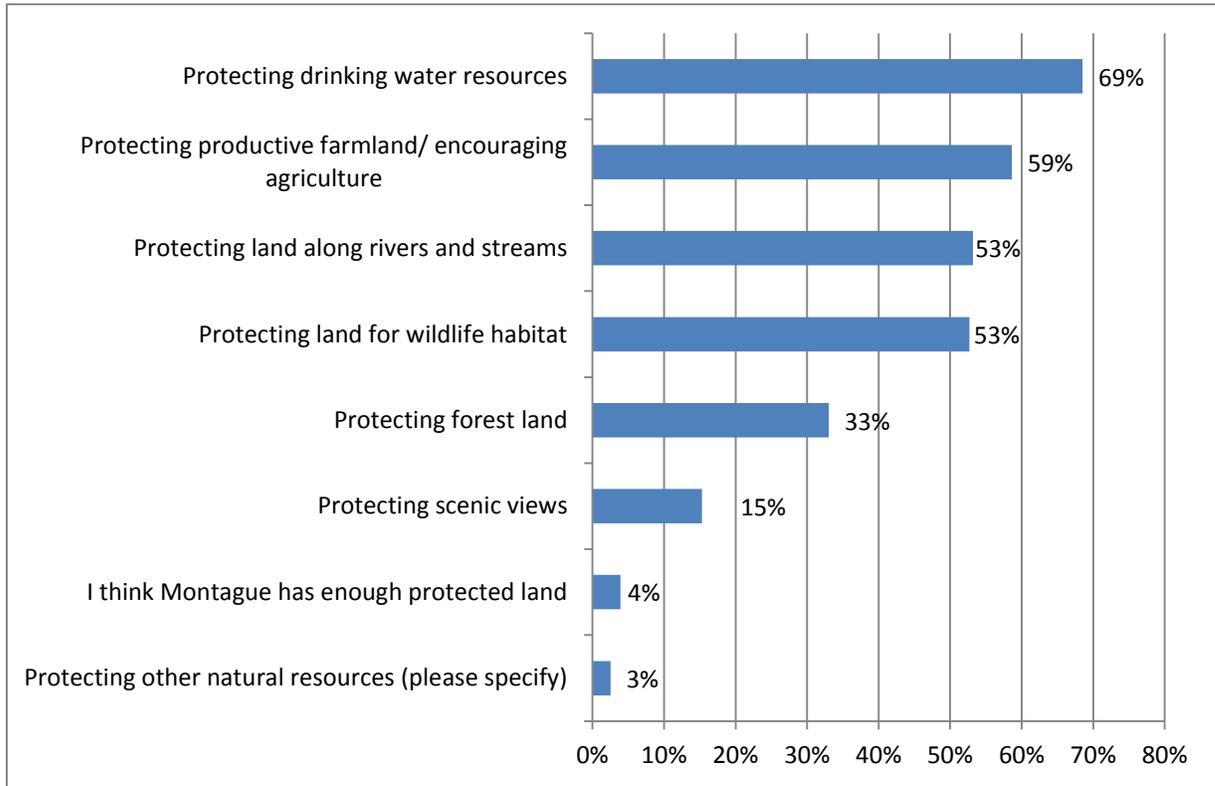
- Swimming (22)
- river swimming (2)
- A swimming pool or something like the Greenfield Swimming pool.
- Would like to see a water rec facility in our town.
- Swimming will be one of the activities I would like to see in Montague. The towns are surrounded by water and its not a place for swimming
- Outdoor Swimming... But would prefer managed natural swimming area over outdoor pool, i.e. Low infrastructure, high oversight.
- A safe area to swim in the river would be incredible.
- public soccer fields, public swimming area
- Might be nice to have a sanctioned deep (not stream) swimming hole mentioned above; canoe/kayak access on navigable section of CT below dam.
- We often go to Wendell state forest for swimming skating and sledding.
- Swimming lessons
- Outdoor pool and river access points.
- I would love for there to be an official kayak/canoe/SUP launch or two. Also, I wouldn't fight it if there were to be a fenced dog run/park somewhere, but that's not a priority
- River Access
- There is no easy access to the Conn. River below the dam. Could put one near (south of) the Water Treatment Plant. Look at the one they built at Leverett Pond. I would help work on such a project. Jeri Moran, email: mainwearing@hotmail.com
- Yes, kayaking and kayak/canoe rentals. :) Probably too expensive, but ropes courses are great exercise and fun for all ages. More programs for adults (as well as kids, but not kids only) to learn about the town's wildlife, urban wildlife, history, geography, geology, etc. Like NerdNites, but outdoors! For example, too, with more education, I'd probably be able to answer questions 5 and 6 more knowledgeable.
- Non motorized boating area with better access (Barton's Cove time is from 9-6, too late in the a.m., closes to early.)
- kayaking, paddle boarding access points on this side of the river
- kayaking
- Snowshoeing trails
- cross country skiing (6)
- Improving snow sledding at Unity Park. Have a winter carnival with community involvement.
- ice skating (2)
- Camping (2)
- more hiking
- trails for walking and running;
- accessible nature trails
- Hiking through Highland Park in Greenfield.
- I love railtrails and protected areas to run/bike.
- A safe bike route to Greenfield
- Improved bike path/safe bike route connectivity between villages!
- adult soccer
- We need soccer fields. We have more residents who play soccer.
- Team Sports for Adults.
- Adult leagues, hiking trails
- Tennis
- Dog park (4)
- Off road vehicles four wheelers jeeps and motorcycles
- A place to ride ATV's and dirtbikes.
- Kickball league, ropes course, easier biking trail or gondola to Greenfield
- rock climbing area or climbing wall for public use
- zip line!
- Miniature Golf
- Once again, DISC GOLF!!! I travel to Amherst, Northampton, Conway, Brattleboro, Athol and more to play, and I would love to have a local option. I'm not the only one who wants this.
- Harvest Supper or Harvest Picnic (like Greenfield)
- how about movies at the park? once a week in summer. outdoor movies at park near Aubuchon.....

**Question 5: Which of the following should be the Town's HIGHEST open space protection priorities?**

**Choose up to THREE**

Answered question: 203

Skipped question: 3



**Protecting other natural resources:**

- All of above
- All of the above
- aquifers
- maybe solar/wind?
- protecting native american sacred grounds

## Question 6: Are there any specific parcels of land or areas of Town that you feel should be protected from development?

Answered question: 59

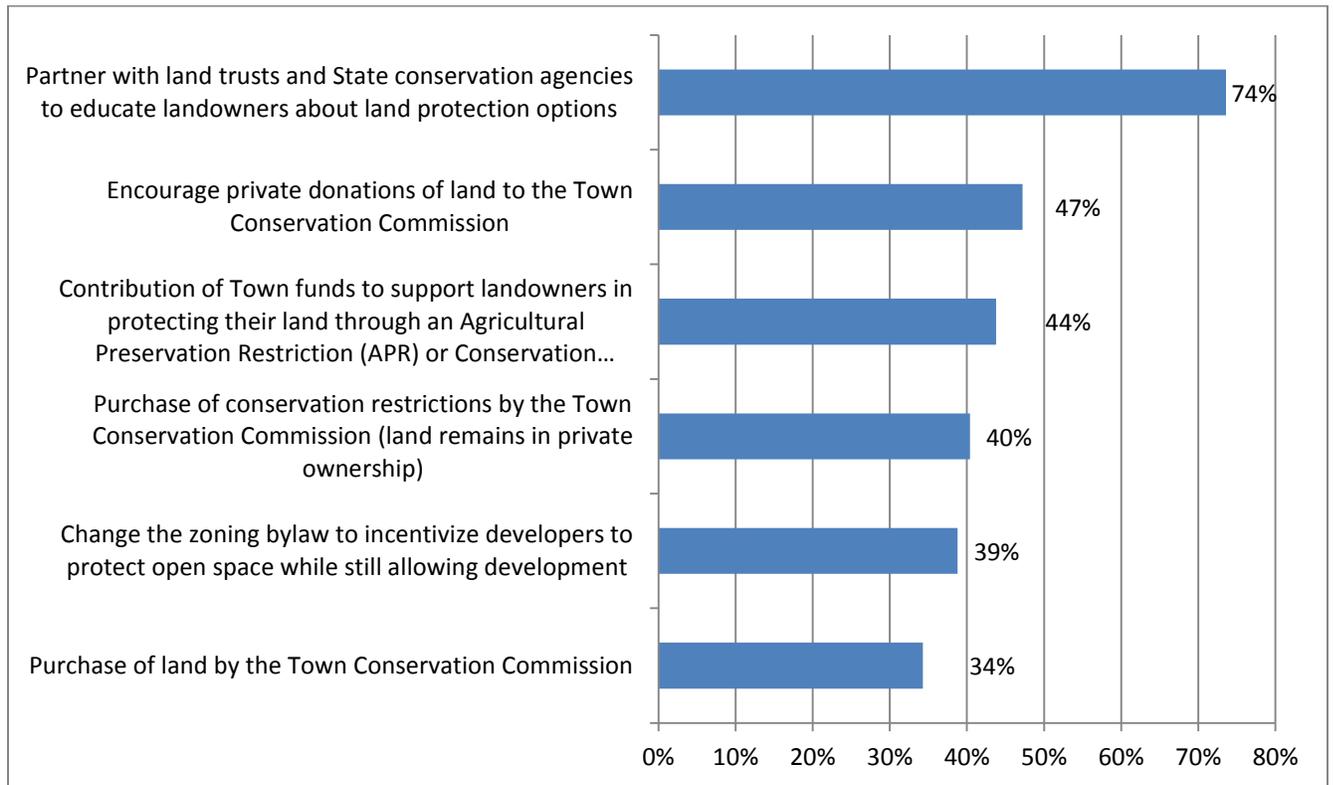
Skipped question: 147

- The Montague Plains (13)
- The plains. The deforestation done there was obnoxious.
- Land along the River from Town Hall to end of meadow ("The Point") T.F.
- Fields on Old Sunderland Road south of Fosters Road
- Near the river and the rich soils there for farming.
- Greenfield Road scenic bike way from Montague City to Montague center
- Near water.
- The land behind millers falls gun club.
- along the river.
- Protect as much land as possible. Increase funds for conservation.
- Cabot woods (2)
- The canal
- Protect the people from government.
- Farmland area alongside Meadow Road in Montague Center
- Playground and ballfield area in Montague Center (formerly belonging to school)
- I think the Town should buy the lot behind Town Hall (owned by C. Couture) to keep green and use for overflow parking for Shea events and Unity Park events
- River access points, riverside wildlife areas, native ecosystems, productive farm land
- 4 corner in Montague Center (Old Sunderland Rd. intersection w/E. Taylor Hill); Meadow Rd.
- The four corners where Old Sunderland Road and East Taylor Hill Road meet -- this is on a walking loop for many people and it would negatively change the character of Montague Center if broken up and developed.
- The open space in and around Falls Rd in Montague.
- Land between Greenfield Road and CT River
- Dry Hill / Chestnut Hill, Montague State Forest
- Along the Sawmill and CT Rivers
- East Mineral Road, if it isn't already.
- Greenfield Road
- Montague Center meadow and creek area
- Locations along the Ct, Meadow Rd etc.
- "The Connecticut River. Existing farmland."
- prime agricultural soils
- All Good farmland
- I do not feel the town needs more development. It's crucial we protect and maintain our meadows and forests from more building and the strain that would put on the town's already limited infrastructure and resources. We need to preserve the rural scenic beauty that makes our area unique!
- the Hayfield
- Montague Center old town Hall where the library is.
- As much as possible.
- "1. The intersection of Old Sunderland Rd. and North Taylor Hill Rd. 2. Meadow/Greenfield Rd/North Taylor Hill intersection areas. "
- Cabot Camp, Waidlich Farm (East Mineral Road)
- Precious farmland near or on river floodplain. Development should be further discouraged from river access areas. (Building houses that block scenic view potential and give property owners sole access to river(s).
- Areas extending between MF road and the Ct and Millers Rivers bounded by IPK/airport and the swale/embankment just north of highland pk.
- farmland in montague center
- Land along Millers River around Millers Falls, working farmlands
- "Chestnut Hill & Dry Hill. also all river frontage"
- All.
- Montague Center!
- It would be nice to turn the Railroad Salvage mess into a park or greenway at least with a few picnic tables or something.
- I'm not sure

**Question 7: Land can be protected from development when it is owned by a public conservation agency (Town Conservation Commission, land trust, or the State), or by placing a Conservation Restriction (CR) or Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) on the land, where the land remains privately owned and on the tax rolls. Towns also can enact zoning that protects open space when new development occurs in certain areas. Which of the following land protection strategies do you think the Town should pursue?**

Answered question: 178

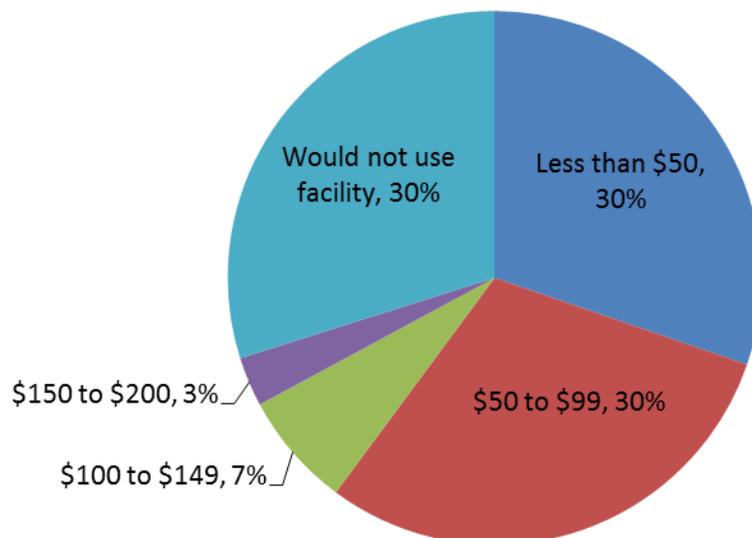
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**Question 8: If the Town had an outdoor swimming area, how much would you be willing to pay for a family pass to use it?**

Answered question: 201

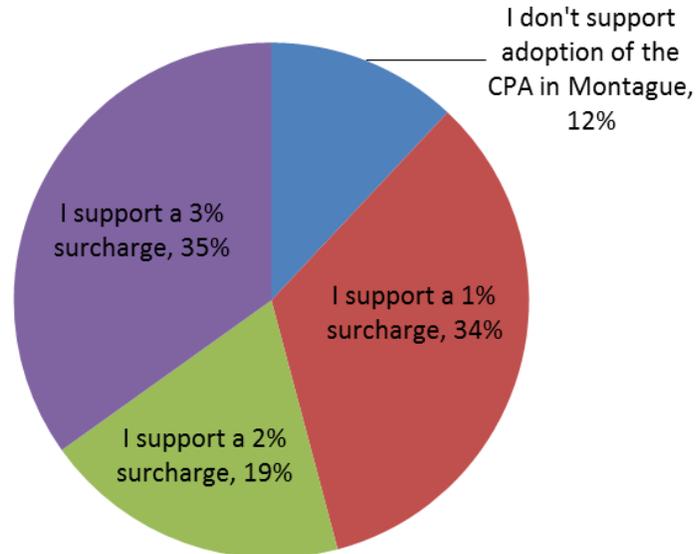
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**Question 9: Do you support adoption of the Community Preservation Act in Montague? (To allow the Town to raise money for land conservation and recreation, as well as community housing and historic preservation, through a property tax surcharge of 1% - 3%. The first \$100,000 of residential property value and low income residents can be exempt from the surcharge. Towns that adopt CPA may also receive state matching funds. For a house valued at \$200,000, a 1% surcharge = \$17/yr.; a 2% surcharge = \$34/yr.; a 3% surcharge = \$51/yr.)**

Answered question: 192

Skipped question: 14



**Question 10: Please provide any additional comments on open space and recreation in Montague:**

Answered question: 39

Skipped question: 167

- Older people can NOT use the very steep place in Montague City to access the Conn. River. We need a put-in to access Conn. River below the dam where the waters are quiet and very few motor boats. If you look at the kayakers in the area, you will see that a good portion are OLDER. The river from Sunderland to Montague is designated a wildlife corridor with max power speeds of 10 mph. It is IDEAL for older kayakers but we need EASY access. Gentle grade to the water - near Water Treatment?
- Thank you. After seeing the survey and the list of spaces available, I'd like to visit/use more of them.
- Instead of an outside swimming pool, make the sprinkler park at unity park bigger and better. Also maybe lake pleasant could be a swimming area. And paddle boats
- I feel that we have lost important and well used hiking, walking, running, biking trails because of the clearing that has happened in the plains. There is no longer shade, and Lake Pleasant lost the cool breeze that made summer more tolerable (not it is more like hot breath coming from the plains).
- The skateboard park is a much needed resource for teens--great job. More projects like this!
- Please make a pool handicap accessible with a lift or a walk in ramp vs stairs
- Thanks for the work you do!
- I'm proud of the outdoor recreation spaces Montague provides already. I think maintaining and education is important to help people care and maintain these spaces for years to come.
- I'd like to see zoning laws changed to allow for Co-Housing models of development where houses are built close together in a neighborhood style and lots of open space is conserved as surrounding area.
- We want more access to the river. It is ridiculous to live on a river and not have access from Turners Falls.
- You are not qualified or have the right to run the programs you have now. Shut them down dammit!

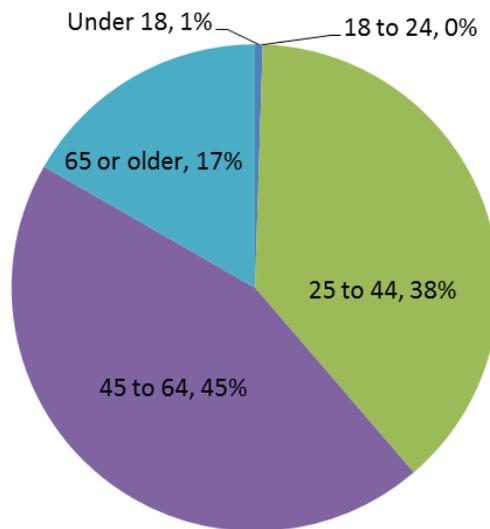
- North St. conservation area has had parking problems .The street has no parking signs all along it, but are ignored. During peak use cars are parked all along the street abutting the entrance rather than walk from the town common where parking is permitted. . Very few tickets are issued.
- Would like to see more upkeep of and playground equipment from old school returned to Montague Center ball field as promised
- Montague is already doing a great job. Let's make it even better! It's an investment in our future.
- I support a surcharge ONLY if it really just goes towards protection of open spaces, land or swimming areas.
- The conservation land at the end of North Street really needs to be mowed. It is turning in to a forest.
- Montague also has beautiful roads for walking and biking on. Controlling the speed of traffic would enhance my enjoyment of the outdoors.
- Keeping open space in the form of parks, forests, and agricultural land is critical to maintaining the character and livability of Montague. It's why many people moved here and stay here.
- swimming pass should have some income based or low cost alternatives if a fee must be charged. While now an "adult only" household---are children grew up in TF.
- I would love to see Montague Center park area have better playground equipment for the kids. There are a lot of kids in town that would use this.
- The Montague Plains water access needs to be maintained as there is a lot of erosion already happening. The baseball field in Montague Center could be used differently or more frequently. And there really needs to be a bathroom at Inity oak after Park and Rec. staff leaves.
- I love Montague b/c of its open space, access to nature, and views, while it's still accessible to bigger towns by car. I would love for safe ways to increase biking between adjacent towns (i.e. Sunderland) and among the five villages. If views and open space are not preserved, it will decrease our property values, and we will move away. So this is important to us. We'd be willing to help finance these priorities through taxes and donations if we can be assured the money will be managed properly.
- make Lake Pleasant a public swimming area!
- It would be nice to allow the children to once again ride ATV's in the Montague Plains. We should provide areas for this type of activity.
- The cutting going on in the Plains region has been very disturbing to many residents. Explanations have been very vague.
- We have plenty of open space in the town and I see no sense in spending money for more when our streets and sidewalks are in such horrible shape. Any grant funding we get should be used to improve street paving, drainage and sidewalk repairs.
- Regarding question 15- no one should ever be required to put their income on a survey. Mine now listed, as it was REQUIRED, is false.
- Right now in Unity Park there's one post with dog poop bags and signage but some of the greatest amount of dog activity is off the gravel parking area at the start of the bike trail. It would be super handy (and might help to reduce the piles of dog poop in that grassy area). Thanks and keep up the good work. I love living in Turners and love the parks you folks maintain so well!
- I think getting the CPA approved in Montague should be a priority.
- I love Walter.
- My family and I just moved here from Holyoke, and we are so in love with Montague. It is a beautiful city, and we are happily exploring all the green spaces
- Swimming, swimming, swimming. No more kids drowning. Let people cool off here. Summers will only be getting longer and hotter (unfortunately).
- Clean up picnic areas by bike path

- The town of Montague could find more ways to support the Great Falls Discovery Center, through moral or political support, for example. The Mass state budget is a mess but the center is not. DCR might not be able to fund programming and open hours at its current rate for much longer.
- I think this topic holds a lot of importance, but many families struggle for money in the area, and a raise in taxes could be a meal not eaten or a rent not fully paid.
- I feel blessed to live in an "urban" area with so many natural resources in a walkable distance (I am in downtown TF)
- The Plains would be a great area for Disc Golf. The minimal environmental impact of designing and implementing a course seems like a perfect fit to me.
- Seriously, please look into some park space, basketball courts, or playground space for Montague City. Check out the brown field at the end of Masonic, or work with the Masonic Lodge to use some of their land?

**Question 11: What is your age?**

Answered question: 204

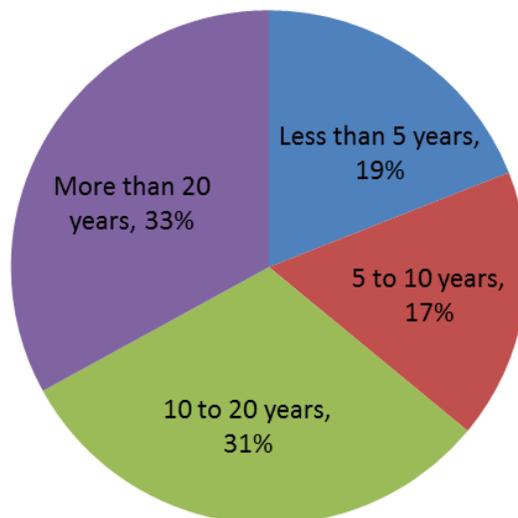
Skipped question: 2



**Question 12: How long have you lived in Montague?**

Answered question: 200

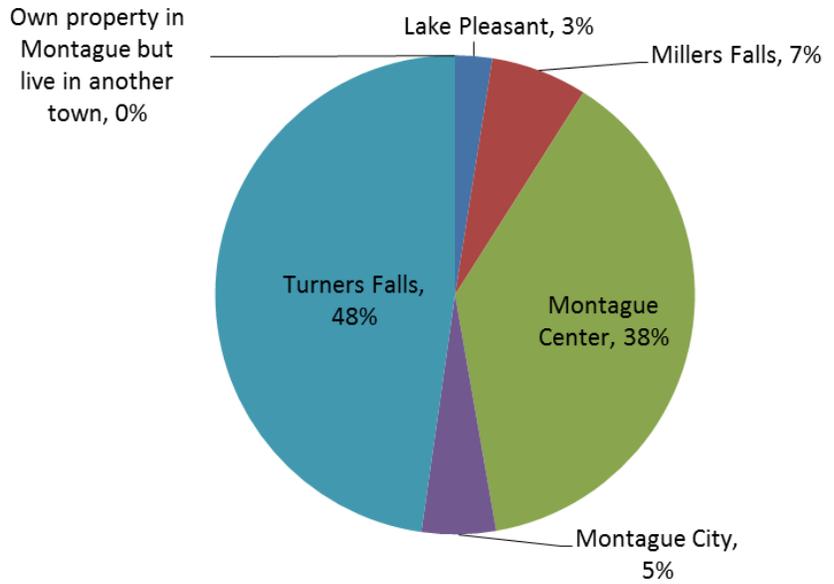
Skipped question: 6



**Question 13: Where do you live?**

Answered question: 201

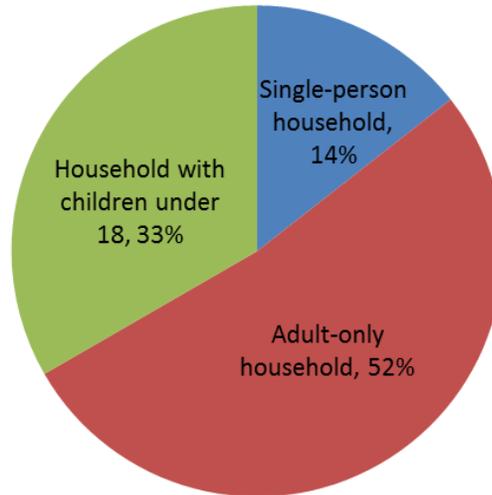
Skipped question: 5



**Question 14: What best describes your household?**

Answered question: 201

Skipped question: 5



**Question 15: What is your household's annual income?**

Answered question: 191

Skipped question: 15

